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Record number of US families now have both parents working full time, survey finds

A new Pew Research Center study finds 52% of two-parent households with children under 18 are full-time dual-income earners, up 21 points since 1975.

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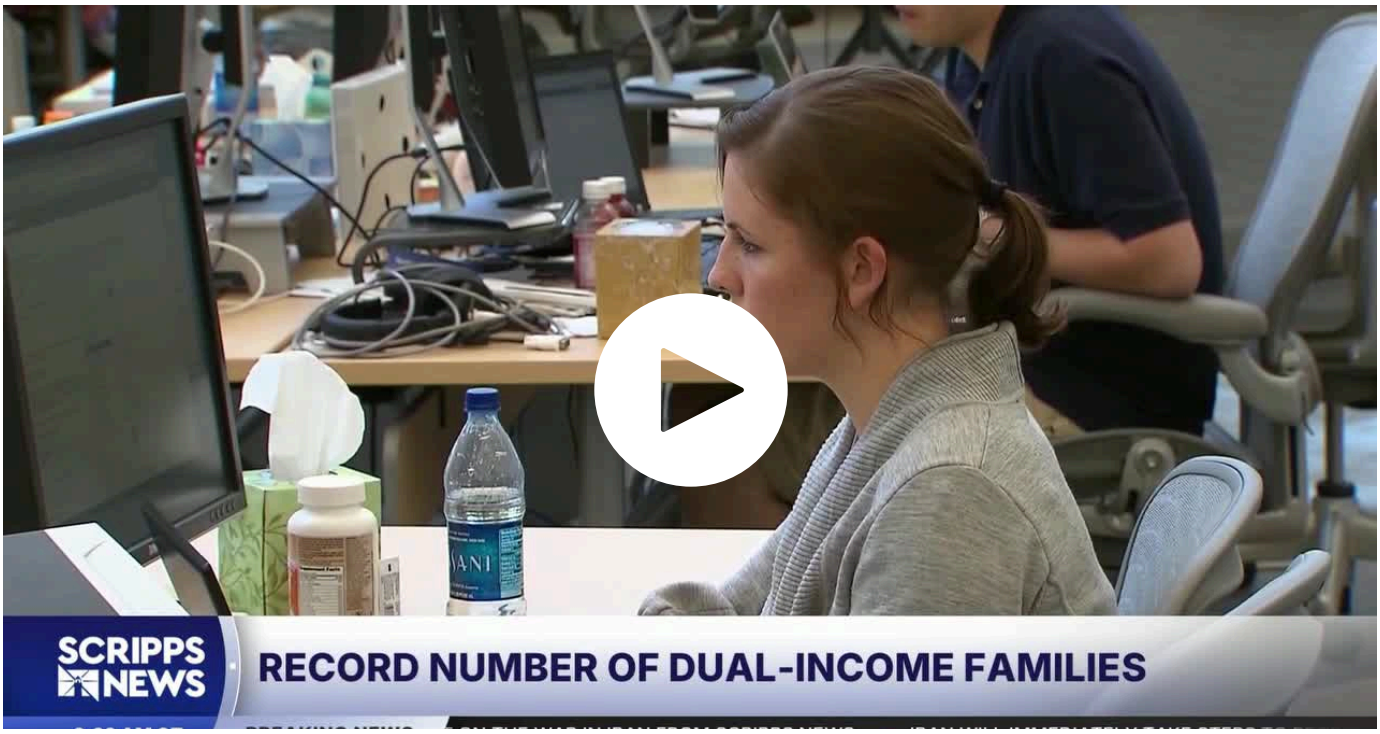

A new Pew study finds 52% of two-parent households are dual full-time earners, up 21 points since 1975. (Scripps News)

By: Scripps News Group
Posted 12:27 PM, Jun 17, 2026

A record share of American families now have both parents working full time.

According to a new Pew Research Center study, 52% of two-parent households with children under the age of 18 are full-time dual-income earners — an increase of 21 points since 1975.

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Meanwhile, the share of families where the father works full time and the mother isn't employed has dropped from 42% in 1975 to 23% last year, according to th

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It comes as the days of households earning $100,000 per year being considered upper-middle class appear to be coming to an end in some parts of the country.

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According to a recent report by MoneyLion, a household income of $100,000 would put families in 12 states into the lower-middle class — defined as households making anywhere from two-thirds to twice the annual median income.

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The report found that residents of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Hawaii, California, New Hampshire, Washington, Colorado, Utah, Connecticut, Alaska and Virginia all need household incomes of more than $100,000 to avoid being considered lower-middle class. Massachusetts had the highest threshold, with the top income for a lower-middle-class household at $116,476.

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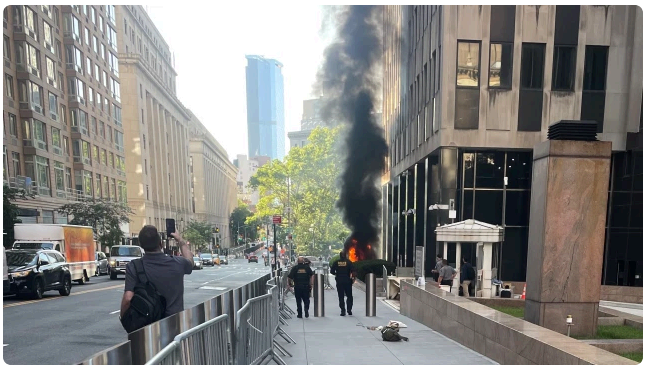

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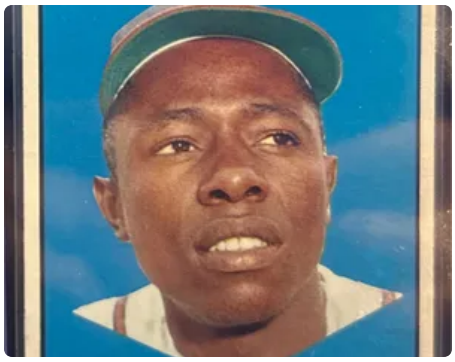

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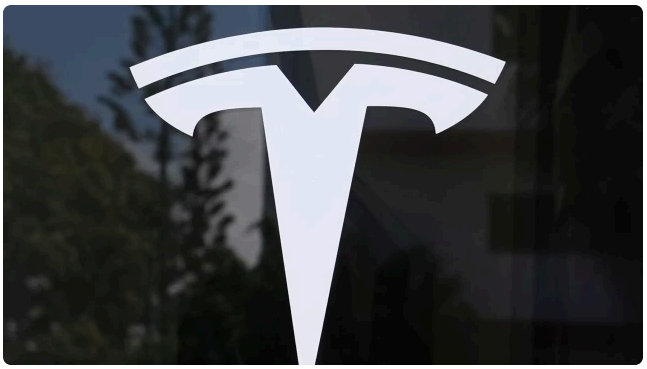

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